



DISTRICT SEVEN COMMUNITIES

Allied Gardens
Alvarado Estates
Chollas Creek
Colina del Sol
College Area
Del Cerro
El Cerrito
Fox Canyon
Grantville
Islenair
MCAS Miramar
Oak Park
Rancho Encantada
Redwood Village
Rolando Park
Rolando
San Carlos
SDSU
Tierrasanta

The Emerald News

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Day of Dialogue

Violent crime is on the rise in San Diego - gang related shootings, domestic violence, etc. Our police chief says San Diego is reaching a tipping point. We must act quickly and decisively, or the violence will get worse.

As Chair of the City Council's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, I am working with police and community volunteers to help restore safety and a sense of well-being to frightened neighborhoods and grieving families. The City Council has begun the process of rebuilding our understaffed and underfunded police department. The City is paying for more police academies, training, support services and equipment for our police officers.

We are also reaching out to grieving families to offer support and wrap-around services. San Diego's Compassion Project and other groups are working 24/7 with bereavement counseling and social services.

Despite all our best efforts, communities are still frightened and angry. Police are on high alert - investigating killings and aggressively following leads. Both sides are struggling with mistrust and friction, wondering who they can trust.

We need to start trusting each other. To help build that trust and better communication, we will be joining the community for a "Day of Dialogue," Sunday, August 12, 2012, from 3-5 pm.

Hosted by the San Diego Unified School District with support from the San Diego Human Relations Commission, the community, police, teachers and principals, mediators and clergy are invited to share their experience, concerns and solutions. This "Day of Dialogue" will be at Hamilton Elementary School, 2807 Fairmount Avenue San Diego, CA 92105, in City Heights.

If we have indeed reached our tipping point in San Diego, let's tip the scales in the direction of peace, understanding and cooperation. This is our opportunity to make a difference.

Thanks, Marti

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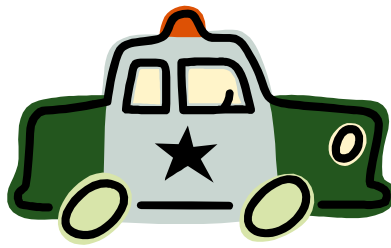
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Safety Speaks

Councilmember Emerald Calls For Restored Police Service Levels

Public safety is a core service of the City; we need to make sure we have the personnel and resources to keep people safe. Over the past several years, the San Diego Police Department has experienced budget cuts that have had substantial impacts on operations. As a result, the SDPD have experienced closed police storefronts, a drop in community policing and less officers on the beat in our neighborhoods. Despite these significant cuts over the past several years, the Police Department should be commended for their efforts.

Previously, Councilmember Emerald tasked the San Diego Police Department to create a 5-year plan to restore police service levels. At the July 18th Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee meeting, the Police Department presented a comprehensive plan to rebuild our police department. Chief Lansdowne indicated, "It's my professional belief that the crime rate will continue to rise" if the City of San Diego doesn't take action.

Wasting little time the Committee voted unanimously to forward the 5-year plan to the full Council for adoption and will also have the City's Independent Budget Analyst begin a thorough review of the plan. For more details of the plan, please visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/committees/psns/>.

Emerald Leads Action To Keep Government Transparent

Councilmember Emerald introduced a resolution at the July 24th Council meeting reaffirming the City's commitment to open government. This was in response to California's latest budget suspending public noticing provisions of the Brown Act, California's open meeting law, in order to cut costs. These suspensions relieve local government of requirements such as posting meeting agendas 72 hours in advance and reporting on decisions made in closed session.

"Our open meeting laws are vital to the public's participation in government and access to government information," says Emerald. "This is a basic principle of our democratic system and we will not waver, regardless of cost." The resolution directs all City government entities that currently comply with the Brown Act to continue to do.

At the July 24th meeting, she led the Council in directing the City Attorney to craft an ordinance that would grant all rights and remedies related to any claim of non-compliance with suspended provisions of the Brown Act.

Celebrating Community



Top left: Councilmember Emerald celebrating the 3rd Anniversary of the New Roots Community Garden with Bob Montgomery, Executive Director of the International Rescue Committee San Diego, and Ralph Achenbach, Food & Farming Marketing Coordinator. The afternoon was filled with live music, traditional foods, guided tours and a compost raffle.

Top Right: Team Emerald participating in the 38th Annual Pride Parade, celebrating “America’s Pride”, in San Diego.

Bottom: The City Heights Farmers Market celebrated its 4th Anniversary bringing healthy, affordable and locally grown produce to residents of the Mid City. Festivities included performances from the Karen dancers (right) and cake (left).

August 7, 2012 is
the 29th Annual
National Night Out!



This event is designed to

*heighten crime & drug prevention awareness,

*generate support for local anti-crime efforts

*and to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and are taking responsibility for their community.

August Community Events

Saturday, August 4, 2012 - SD Canyonlands Fifth and Final Walking Tour and Workshop for 47th Street Canyon is scheduled for 9:30 to 11am (meet at the trailhead at 3300 47th St). For more events from San Diego Canyonlands, please visit: www.sdcanyonlands.org/event

Tuesday, August 7, 2012 - Colina Park National Night Out

Celebrate safety with a march for peace and candlelight vigil, activities, prizes, performance and community resources on health and safety. Activities will go from 5 to 8 pm, located at Colina Park (5319 Orange Avenue) next to the basketball courts. For more information, contact Sakara Tear at (619)961-1062 stear@cityheightscdc.org

Tuesday, August 7, 2012 - National Night Out at the Ray and Joan Kroc Center

This free community fair runs from 6 to 8 pm at the Kroc Center Recreation Field located at 6845 University Avenue. Meet local law enforcement officers and enjoy free hot dogs, giveaways, a self defense demonstration, live entertainment, community booths, and more! For more information, please visit: www.kroccenter.org

Saturday, August 11, 2012 - SD Food Bank Drive Supports City Heights Neighborhood Schools from 8am to 12pm. You can drop off goods at Azalea Community Park (2596 Violet Street, San Diego, CA 92105) to support elementary school kids from Cherokee Point, Edison, Ibarra, Adams and Sherman Elementary Schools. For more information about the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, please visit: <http://sandiegofoodbank.org/programs/food-4-kids-backpack-program-2/>

Wednesday-Friday, August 15 to 17, 2012 – California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce's 33rd Annual State Convention features some free convention activities. On 8/16 from 9:30am to 4 pm: business info sessions and a Latina negotiation workshop & exposition. On 8/17 from 10am to 4pm: business exposition and one-on-one procurement matchmaking. Convention located at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, 8757 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA 92108. For more information, like full event pricing, please visit: www.cahcc.com

Friday-Sunday, August 17 to 19, 2012 – San Diego Lantern Festival features a perfect mix of great food, vendors, over 12 thrilling carnival rides and games. The festival will include the 2nd Annual Miss Asia San Diego Pageant, as well as a fantastic line up of cultural entertainment and a breathtaking display of (6,000) lanterns in the evening. Located at 4474 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego, CA 92115. For more information, please visit: www.sdlanternfestival.com

Saturday, August 18, 2012 – Tierrasanta Concert in the Park Enjoy the 80's Rock 'n Roll band Y3K at the Tierrasanta Recreation Center Field, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd from 6pm to 9pm, as a part of the Concert in the Park Series. For more info/questions, please email citp2012@gmail.com